

Mr. Speaker, it is refreshing in a time of perception of contentiousness in the legislative bodies that we can consider a matter of this nature and have such thoughtful, constructive, civilized dialogue on a matter that touches the heart of so many of our fellow citizens. And how fitting to have a survivor of the Holocaust whose whole life and career has been concerned with saving people from tragedy, to lend his voice and his stature, his character and dignity to saving the lives of pets.

And to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), who has been associated so much with the process of campaign finance reform and other similar matters, to lend his support and his concern, his character, to a matter of this kind and to partner with the gentleman from California, both coasts joining to support something greater than all of us.

As others have said, my wife and I watched the horror of Hurricane Katrina. Jean's home is New Orleans. Her family were there. Two brothers both had property losses, severe property loss. She knew as the cameras moved around the city from one street to the next, I walked that street, I know the people in that house. They have a pet. That dog is up in the attic and they are not going to leave because they cannot rescue the pet.

We will now make it possible to avoid such dire choices in the future by putting in place a structure by which we can accommodate the needs of people and the lives they lead and the pets they have that are important to their living.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. I wanted to rise and thank Chairman SHUSTER for marshaling this bill through and making sure that Members treated it with seriousness.

I thank the ranking member of the full Transportation Committee, Mr. OBERSTAR, for his partnership in this effort.

I also thank Congressman LANTOS. We have been through many battles together, and this has been one of the most enjoyable ones.

I also wanted to stand up and acknowledge the fine work of Senator COLLINS and the ranking member, Mr. LIEBERMAN, in the Senate for their help in getting this bill through. Had they not taken action and treated this bill seriously, we would not be here today. And, frankly, they made it a better bill. I just wanted to thank Senators COLLINS and my friend JOE LIEBERMAN, who I love very dearly.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will close very quickly because I am in danger of being labeled as a big softy if I give too much in the way of closing comments. I will close by just asking

all of my colleagues to support this piece of legislation which is important to millions and millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3858.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have up to 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2832, H.R. 4653 and H.R. 3858.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

ROBERT LINN MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4768) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 777 Corporation Street in Beaver, Pennsylvania, as the "Robert Linn Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4768

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ROBERT LINN MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 777 Corporation Street in Beaver, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Robert Linn Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert Linn Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4768, offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART), would designate the facility of the United States Post Office in Beaver, Pennsylvania, as the "Robert Linn Memorial Post Office Building."

Mr. Speaker, Robert Linn passed away in August 2004, at the age of 95. His accomplishment of serving the citizens of Beaver, Pennsylvania as mayor for a record-setting 58 years was a testament to his lasting dedication and friendship to the community.

In 1995 Mayor Linn was officially listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest-serving mayor in the United States. Although he had a long list of accomplishments, his Streetscape initiative, a town beautification project that removed power lines and concrete sidewalks from the main street, was among his greatest.

Not only did Robert Linn serve his community as mayor for a record-setting number of years, but he served as an educator at Beaver Falls Junior High School for 6 years, followed by a 36-year career at Duquesne Light Company.

Mayor Linn's passion was socializing with the people he served, and many in town knew that one of his favorite activities was running the scoreboard for football games at Beaver High School.

Although the position of mayor was a part-time job, Robert Linn will be remembered by the citizens of Beaver as their full-time champion. With gratitude for his devotion and service to the Beaver community, I ask all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 4768.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4768, which names a postal facility in Beaver, Pennsylvania, after Robert Linn. H.R. 4768 was introduced by Representative MELISSA HART on February 16, 2006. This measure, which has the support and cosponsorship of the entire Pennsylvania congressional delegation, was unanimously reported from our committee on May 4, 2006.

Robert Linn, a native of Pennsylvania, was mayor of Beaver Borough for 58 years until his death on August 22, 2004. He is remembered for his success in making improvements on Main Street, renovations of historic buildings, and preservation of the history and charm of his city.

Anyone who serves a city as its mayor for 58 years unequivocally and without a doubt had its interest at heart. And I can think of no more appropriate way of recognizing his impact than to name this facility in his honor.

I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

This is a very important issue to discuss. I think it is one that many of us often look at very casually as we are naming a post office, but many times citizens of America whose names go on these post offices are people that we know we need to remember. And I bring one of those individuals before us today in our legislation to name the post office in Beaver, Pennsylvania, after Robert Linn.

Robert Linn was one of those amazing people who anybody who ever met him would never forget. So I rise in support of the Robert Linn Memorial Post Office in Beaver, Pennsylvania.

He was sworn into office as the mayor of Beaver, Pennsylvania, on January 2, 1946, and he served the Borough of Beaver, Pennsylvania, for 58 consecutive years as mayor. I am not exaggerating. It was really 58 years. So he was able to see many of the people he married as mayor welcome their grandchildren and great-grandchildren into the world.

Prior to taking over the position of mayor at its original salary of \$2,500 a year, Mayor Linn worked for the Duquesne Light Company. His first job was handling customer service before he eventually became supervisor of employee benefits, and he actually retired from the company in 1974. He continued his service both in the public and private sector throughout his life, and he was really known as a gracious gentleman. As I mentioned, anybody who knew him would never forget him. He showed up every day in a coat and tie. It didn't matter if it was Sundays, Saturdays, early, late. He was always in a coat and tie.

In 1995, the Guinness Book of World Records recognized Robert Linn as the longest-serving mayor in American history. His selflessness, his regard for the greater good, is reflected in these 15 consecutive terms that he served up until his death at age of 95 on August 22, 2004.

There is much more to Bob Linn than just being the longest-serving mayor in American history. It was Bob Linn, the father of four daughters, Mary Scheidmantel of Beaver; Eleanor Hesser of Beaver; Mary Hockenberry of New Cumberland, Pennsylvania; and Beth Mitchell of Virginia Beach, Virginia. There was Robert Linn, a grandfather of eight and a great-grandfather of one. He was definitely a dedicated family man, and he would do anything for his loved ones, including everyone in the Borough of Beaver.

For example, when he was in his early 80s, he wanted to show his grandson that he, too, could ride a bicycle.

Unfortunately, he learned the hard way that maybe he shouldn't be riding a bicycle. Although he was capable of running the town quite effectively as mayor in his advanced years, he was a little past his prime when it came to bike riding, when he fell off and broke his wrist, but he continued in his public service.

There was Robert Linn, the mentor. A Beaver police chief was quoted as saying, "One of the most important things that Mayor Linn ever told me was 'You can think what you want, but once it is said, it is said.'" He said, "I still to this day use this advice, and I pass it on to others. He was like a father to me," said Chief Anthony Hovanec.

Bob Linn was a teacher for 6 years at the Beaver Falls Junior High School and a volunteer scorekeeper for the Beaver High School football games. He was just a man who loved his community.

Finally, there was Robert Linn, the American and dedicated public servant, the one that I knew the best. He was a man dedicated to the community in which he lived to making sure it became better and better with every year he served in public life.

Beaver Borough was Bob Linn's passion. His crowning achievement was the Streetscape project, which he proudly declared his finest accomplishment as mayor. This project received the Beaver Area Heritage Foundation's Harry S. Truman Beautification Award. The Streetscape transformed the Borough of Beaver into a real-life version of a Norman Rockwell painting. It removed all the utility poles, all the parking meters, and replaced them with trees and Victorian-style street lamps and bricked the sidewalks and streets.

The Borough of Beaver and the 5,000 residents who live there still agree that Bob Linn's assessment that the borough was one of the "best places you can be" is certainly true. Mayor Linn was also successful in having the borough named a National Registry Historic District in 1996 and successfully converted the old freight train station in town into a museum. In fact, so many locals gathered there in October of 2000 that then-Governor George Bush, when he stopped his train on his cross-country tour, attracted so many residents of Beaver that they had to stop the train.

The Borough of Beaver and the 5,000 residents who live there still agree that Bob Linn was the most effective community leader they have ever seen. And I think beyond just the Borough of Beaver, people in the Commonwealth and people across the Nation need to see as an example of public service what Bob Linn did.

His effect on the borough goes much farther than aesthetics. He was a father, mentor, teacher, volunteer, and really the embodiment of a public servant. He truly loved Beaver to its core. He tirelessly dedicated himself and his

life to making it the best place that it can be.

I urge my colleagues to support the Robert Linn Memorial Post Office to honor a man who so generously dedicated his life to the town that he loved so future generations can know all about Bob Linn.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4768.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4768.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TERCENTENARY COMMISSION ACT OF 2005

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4586) to extend the authorization of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4586

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TERCENTENARY COMMISSION.

Section 9(b) of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act (Public Law 107-202; 36 U.S.C. note prec. 101) is amended by striking "not later than January 16, 2007" and inserting "not later than January 16, 2009".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin stands out in American history as a Founding Father of this country and a true Renaissance man.

Since childhood, we have all enjoyed the wonderful stories of his remarkable life as statesman, scientist, inventor, and diplomat. We have now been afforded the opportunity of bringing the